The firing from Pakistan side on 27th March, 2002 which was not in excess of normal trend, was effectively retaliated by the Indian troops, without suffering any casualty or damage.

Defence deals with Russia

5129. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Defence Minister visited Russia during the month of April, 2002 and had long discussions with the Russian authorities over defence deals;

(b) if so, whether the agreements on all the defence deals with Russia have been signed; and

(c) if so, to what extent Russia has agreed to assist India in defence projects?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Raksha Mantri paid an official visit to the Russian Federation from 10—13 April, 2002 at the invitation of Defence Minister of the Russian Federation and held discussions with the Russian side on defence Cooperation between the two countries. No agreement was signed during this visit.

Indo US joint Military Exercises

5130. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and United States have decided to hold joint military exercises in Alaska during the month of April-May, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the US Army whose winter warfare school is based in Alaska is keen to share with the Indian Army its special expertise in battling in icy conditions;